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HELP SMES TRADE  
AND GROW

Canada’s economic prospects depend in large part on the vitality and growth potential of small and medium-sized enterprises.

SMEs account for 99.7% of all businesses and 71% of all private sector jobs in Canada. But, they contribute only 25% of our goods and services exports and less than a third of Canada’s GDP. The Canadian economy would benefit enormously if we could do a better job in sustaining and scaling up

small businesses into larger, globally competitive enterprises.

Canada has an enviable record when it comes to entrepreneurship and business start-ups. It is easier to create a business here than in most other places in the world. But, our small companies struggle to grow. Canada has few truly global enterprises. Our record in scaling up start-ups into sustainable businesses and in growing our small- and medium-sized businesses into larger global players has to be improved.





In order to encourage small business growth, we need:

- Tax policies that reward entrepreneurship, business investment and growth;
  - Regulatory policies that take impacts on small business into account and enable easy and low-cost compliance;
  - Government procurement policies that provide innovative Canadian companies that vital first customer, and;
  - Programs that connect SMEs to domestic and international business opportunities and help build business capacity for growth, that are designed to address the practical needs of business and that afford easy, low-cost access for companies of all sizes.
- The departments of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development and Public Services and Procurement to develop their small business procurement, innovation and business development programs;
  - Export Development Canada, Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian Commercial Corporation to enhance their services and develop more SME exporters; and,
  - Business Development Canada to make more capital available for small business growth.

In 2018, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce will work with:

- Finance Canada to improve the tax treatment of small businesses to accelerate scale-up and growth;

We will draw on the recommendations of our small- and medium-sized members to advise government departments on what works, what doesn't work and what they can do better to encourage SME growth. And, we will support the initiatives of our chamber network aimed at connecting SMEs with new business opportunities and enhancing their capacity to grow.